

Best Outreach Program

The Best Outreach Program award goes to an individual who developed a creative and cost-effective approach to promoting the implementation of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) at the local level. This person has also been an effective PAYT spokesperson and educator through various forums, statewide workshops, presentations to cities and towns, and interviews with the media. To promote the start-up of this town's PAYT program, this individual utilized not only traditional methods of outreach such as direct mailings to residents, a PAYT hotline and e-mail address for questions, but used other visual reminders of the upcoming program in the form of signs in the town's public buildings and businesses; signs on the sides of the town's DPW trucks and t-shirts announcing the program sported by the town's recycling volunteers. The award for the Best Outreach Program goes to George Russell of the Town of Natick.

Best Regional Waste Reduction Award

The award for the Best Regional Waste Reduction effort goes to an individual whose tireless dedication to promoting and providing expanded recycling and household hazardous waste services to the 29,000 households of this solid waste district's 11 member towns. In the 6 ½ years that she has been working for the district, their recycling rate has increased by 29%. This person, who is affectionately known among her communities as the "Garbage Goddess", "Mercury Maven" and the "Diva of Disposal" can be found on any given Saturday at one of the 3 regionally shared paint collection sheds or assisting with special events such as electronics collections. Her ongoing work with school children earned her special recognition at the state level for her idea of distributing children's illustrated grocery bags at local markets promoting recycling messages such as "Hancock School Recycles, Why Can't You?" The award for the Best Regional Waste Reduction Program goes to Ms. Sandy Totter of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

Best Public-Private Partnership

The award for the Best Public Private Partnership goes to an individual who personifies dedication to local waste reduction programs. In the many years she managed the programs of not one, but two municipalities and has worked hard to make progress to expand the quality of recycling services in difficult budgetary times. This past spring she negotiated a major expansion of her district's recycling program by securing refurbished recycling trucks from DEP and simultaneously received \$10,000 from HP Hood to buy 18-gallon recycling bins. Her regional refuse district, the Dartmouth Select Board, and a citizens' group all approved of the public/private partnership. Because of her efforts, an additional 30,000 Massachusetts residents will receive curbside collection of mixed paper. Dartmouth obtained these services by using a creative approach to securing the needed equipment. Without her imagination and hard work this partnership would not

have happened. The award for the best public-private partnership goes to Virginia Valiela of the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse District.

Most Innovative Waste Reduction Program

The award for the Most Innovative Waste Reduction Program goes to a community leader whose involvement with town recycling and waste reduction programs spans more than a decade. This person has been the driving force behind an all-volunteer run recycling facility that accepts over 175 items, from bowling balls to bubble wrap, and roller skates to roto-tillers (not to mention the usual cans, bottles, paper, yard waste and HHW). The recycling center volunteers offer free monthly pick-up of recyclables from seniors and persons with disabilities. This program's hundreds of innovative recycling and reuse ideas are explained in an eight-page guide designed to help other communities expand their waste reduction programs. A few examples include: collecting clothes, shoes, sheets, and bedding for 15 Worcester area shelters (volunteers sort, bag and deliver items to shelters); collecting porcelain tubs, sinks and toilets for grinding and use as road aggregate; and, collecting medical equipment (crutches, walkers, wheelchairs) for Massachusetts Easter Seals. The award for the Most Innovative Waste Reduction Program goes to Ruth Kaminski (a volunteer herself) and the Town of Leicester's Recycling Program.